

***ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION RECOMMENDATION FOR NON-RENEWAL
Topics and Feedback Summary
July 26, 2012***

The chart below identifies the topics that were raised through the public comment process with regard to the Commissioner's recommendation to not renew the Academy for Career Exploration (ACE) charter contract at the end of its charter term on June 31, 2013. There were a total of 48 speakers who provided public comment at the public hearing. In addition, RIDE has received written comment, all of which is included in the public record file.

The chart below summarizes the topics and comments made during the public hearing held on July 26 2012. The chart is divided into three sections – frequently raised topics, the identification of the number of comments and identification of the role of those submitting comments, and comments/feedback. The primary areas of concern include: the school serves an “at risk” population, the school is a safe alternative to the other public schools in Providence, the school has an improvement plan and will improve, the school has done well in reading. This summary chart is not intended to serve in lieu of providing Regents access to full transcripts of the hearing, which are available upon request.

Public comment sessions were held at the following dates and locations:

July 26, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)

The speakers included:

Affiliation was primarily derived from sign-in sheets; if not given on sign-in sheet, affiliation was derived from comments.

48 total speakers:

5	Residents/Business Owners
21	Students/ Alum
8	Parents/Family
5	Teachers
4	School Representatives
3	Board Members
2	Other Charter School Representatives

Number in Support of Closing School

0

Number Opposed

48

Number Uncommitted

0

Topic	Source of Comments	Feedback
Use and Status of NECAP Performance	3 Residents/Business Owners 6 Students/Alum 2 Parents 2 Teachers 1 School Representatives 1 Board Members 2 Other Charter School Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE has strong reading and writing scores and achievement for Latino students (addressing achievement gaps) • ACE targets other important skills such as college and career readiness • ACE agrees that improvement in math is needed, but this is a problem common to many schools
School has a plan for Improvement	3 Students/Alum 1 Parents 3 Teachers 3 School Representatives 2 Board Members 2 Other Charter School Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE has a plan in place for improvement • More time is needed to implement the plan that was developed. The problem can be solved without closure • ACE would like to develop partnerships with RIDE, the Providence district, higher education institutions and community organizations • ACE has already responded and the new board is aggressively moving forward with an improvement plan
School community is safe and supportive	3 Residents/Business Owners 17 Students/Alum 4 Parents 4 Teachers 2 School Representatives 1 Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE is a small, safe school • ACE is a nurturing environment for children who need social, emotional and academic support • Teachers take the time to get to know students who may have otherwise been unreachable in bigger schools • Not everything can be measured by test scores

Preparation for life skills/ higher education	10 Students/Alum 1 Parents 1 Teachers 1 School Representatives 1 Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE allows students to receive their CNA license, take college courses while still in high school, and apply their knowledge to real-world situations • ACE alumni have received postgraduate degrees (in math and other fields) • ACE graduates have achieved success in competitive careers
Alternatives to ACE	5 Students/Alum 4 Parents 1 Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If ACE closes, students will be sent to larger schools that may be lower performing • The waiting lists at other schools nearby are long and difficult to navigate • The decision to send children to ACE is a parent's choice, but closing the school would take that choice away.